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Wayland Houses,
Barts.
June 14, 1979

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Reference

Wayland remembered



THIS BUILDING is still standing, but may be difficult to recognize. Can you guess where this house is? Answer in next week's Crier. (Wayland Bicentennial Photo)



IN WESTON,
week's issue,
of May 24) to
(Historical Society ph

CAGE

CAN YOU GUESS when and where this photo was taken? **Answer next week.**

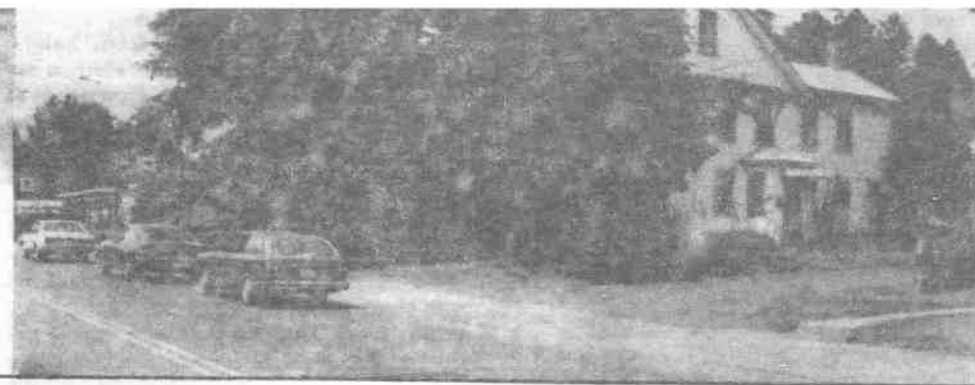
(Weston Historical Society)

Last week's mystery picture

TREES SHIELD the answer to last week's mystery picture from full view, but a close look shows it is the house that still stands at the corner of Main Street and Commonwealth Avenue, in Wayland. For a more complete answer, see below.



Back when . . . in Weston



Bent house: 'that's no mystery, it's my home!'

By ANDREA HAYNES

Mrs. Margaret Bent Morrell recognized last week's Wayland mystery picture immediately.

It pictured the house at the corner of Main Street and Commonwealth Avenue where she has lived most of the time since 1914.

Her great-great-grandfather, Lt. William Bent, built the house in 1776. He served in the Revolutionary War.

"He brought his bride, Polly Coolidge, from Natick to live here. I still have a rosebush out back that she brought with her," Mrs. Morrell said.

She delights in telling stories about the glorious and shady moments in the houses's past.

When she was a child, she and her family lived next door, and a woman called Mrs. Remick ran a boarding house in the home, which at the time was called the Hawthorn Inn. In those days, Mrs. Morrell said, towns voted wet and dry, and one particular year the town voted dry (not to sell alcoholic beverages).

Mrs. Remick did her best, according to Mrs. Morrell, to insure that people didn't suffer because of the law.

Jugs under skirt

"She used to sit in a chair in the front room looking up and down the street. She wore great full skirts and she hid jugs on each side underneath. When she saw a customer coming, she lifted up her skirt and took out the



MRS. MORRELL is fond of this rosebush.

jug," Mrs. Morrell said.

Mrs. Morrell said one of the stairs has a removable top. The inside of the stair would be filled with bottles of liquor.

At one time, a front room was a bar. "The customers would lean up against the walls and were gouging out the plaster, so they had to put wood beyond where the chairs reach," she said. The walls still have the wood about a third of the way up.

Raided

Mrs. Morrell said that one night the house was raided, she thinks by police, and all the doors were taken off closets by people

searching for liquor.

"I still don't have doors on the closets upstairs," she said. Some of the closets downstairs are covered with curtains because the doors are missing.

Before Mrs. Remick's time, Mrs. Morrell's Aunt Ann Maria served meals to men who worked in the Bent Shoe factory across the street. A huge table ran the length of the present dining room and kitchen, and the house was called the Cochituate House.

Her great-great grandfather learned how to make shoes from a Natick cousin, she said, and eventually her family built the Bent factory across the street. She tells of a horse that

walked a treadmill to supply steam for the factory.

Beautiful flowers

Her family moved back into the house in 1914. She remembers beautiful flowers on the Bent property. "We had a beautiful fringe bush and a Hawthorn tree that a man from the agricultural college in Amherst (now the University of Massachusetts) said was the finest hawthorne tree he had seen in New England," she said.

"Every year at graduation time the high school would ask us if they could pick some flowers to decorate the stage, and they would come each year and cut some," she said.

Cutting's store and one-cent cookies

The picture in the June 7 issue of Weston-Wayland Town Crier is Cuttings General Store, barn and slaughter house, which occupied the space where St. Julia's church and rectory now stand.

The building in front was Cutting's General Store. On the left of the door, was a large picture window. Inside was the office of Mr. George W. Cutting whom one could often observe at his desk busy at work. Also busy at work were his clerks, Mr. Arthur Nims who resided on Maple Road. Mr. Jerry Hurd who resided on Highland Street formerly had his own fish delivery service. We could often buy large

molasses cookies for one cent each. Mr. Clifford Cooper resided on Newton Street and Mr. Charles Whittemore who resided on Boston Post Road was also the sexton at the Baptist Church for many, many years.

The building in the rear, which was the barn, also contained the delivery horses and wagons, and a large slaughtering wheel, where meat was for sale.

Editor's Note: The Town Crier thanks the gentleman who called about Cutting's Store. Unfortunately, the recording machine broke and we were unable to hear his name.

Best answers to energy crunch in ourselves?